Fulbright U.S. Student Program Study/Research Grant
Official website: http://us.fulbrightonline.org
CUSE National Fellowships website: http://fellows.nd.edu/fellowships/fulbright

What is this award?
This program awards grants to support study and/or research in one of over 130 countries. The Fulbright was created in 1946 by the U.S. Congress to foster mutual understanding among cultures and nations. It is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and functions abroad in cooperation with Fulbright Commissions and Foundations, along with U.S. embassies. Typically, Fulbright grant winners receive enough funding to support a full academic year in a country. Fulbright also supports an English Teaching Assistantship program, a public policy internship program, digital media and music projects, and participation in already established public health research projects. Information about the full range of grants is available at http://us.fulbrightonline.org/about/types-of-grants.

Who is eligible for this award?
Applicants must meet the following criteria:
2. Hold at least a Bachelor’s degree or equivalent at the time the grant period would begin, but not a PhD. (This means that the earliest you’d begin the application process is second semester of junior year, but graduating seniors and alumni are also eligible to apply.)
3. Be in good health.
4. Sufficient language proficiency to communicate with people and carry out the proposed project in the host country. (This requirement can vary from one country to another.)
5. It is preferred that applicants not have lived in the host country for more than six months. (Study abroad in a country for more than six months is acceptable, however.)

Who is competitive for this award?
Successful study/research grant applicants will, first and foremost, propose a compelling and feasible project that requires an academic year in the host country. They will demonstrate the skills necessary to carry out their proposed projects, along with a close affiliation with an institution in the host country that will provide them with any necessary resources. Successful applicants must also display an interest in contributing to and benefiting from cultural exchange in the particular host country, and they will suggest specific ways that they can do so when they are not working on their projects (e.g., through volunteer activities).
What is the application process for this award?
You must apply through CUSE National Fellowships. The first part of the process is to submit a Pre-Application. Please visit http://fellows.nd.edu/fellowships/fulbright to view the Pre-Application and instructions.

The second part of the application process for the Fulbright Program is online. Applications ultimately consist of the following material:

1. Biographical information and proposal abstract.
2. Statement of Grant Proposal that discusses what you plan to do during your year abroad. (2 page maximum for most types of grants)
3. Letter of Affiliation/Endorsement indicating institutional support for applicant’s project.
4. Personal Statement that discusses applicant’s personal and intellectual development, and a personal interest in the host country. (1 page)
5. Language Self-Evaluation and Foreign Language Evaluation, which should be completed if you have any background in the host country’s language(s) and/or if it is required by the host country. The FLE should be completed by a language instructor, who will upload the evaluation into the application him/herself.
6. Three Letters of Reference. Ideally, these should be completed by individuals who can speak to the applicant’s ability to carry out the proposed project successfully. Recommenders will upload their letters into the application themselves.
7. Official Transcripts from all institutions attended. You will scan and upload these into the online application yourself.

The “odds” of receiving a Fulbright grant vary from country to country. Statistics are available at http://us.fulbrightonline.org/statistics.

What is the timeline for this award, and what is my next step?
Your next step should be to visit http://fellows.nd.edu/fellowships/fulbright for application advice and specific information on upcoming information sessions, application workshops, and deadlines. You will be expected to work with CUSE throughout the summer to develop your application, and you will receive additional feedback during a campus interview that will take place in person or via Skype in September. Please note that Notre Dame has deadlines that are much earlier than the national deadline, so be sure to consult the CUSE Fulbright website for deadline information.